

Dear FCC Commissioners & Staff:

I am opposed to any change in rules that giving the local Bell companies the ability to refuse to provide interconnect to Internet Service Providers.

First of all our company offered Internet access to the general public well before the local telephone company. We 'pioneered' this service to the community long before Ameritech attempted to provide this service. In the early stages of our business we went into the homes and offices of our clients and physically set up their equipment (without charge) so they could connect to the Internet. This was for simple dial-up to the Internet. We feel it is our duty to provide extreme service to the consumer and in fact spend a great deal of time on service issues to consumers without charge even though it does not directly relate to our Internet service. We know we provide much more than connectivity to our customers. Customers would be ill served with less competition. Ameritech is currently under fines for lack of services for products they already provide to the consumer. Not a very good track record at all, with virtually no improvement in 3 years.

We have experienced many instances where our DSL customers requesting connection were not serviced properly by Ameritech's provisioning unit. In fact, in most instances Ameritech would call the customer offering their service as an alternative to our service for DSL. We lost many customers in this manner. Ameritech offered a very low price to drive out competition and now have raised prices since competition in the marketplace has lessened.

We cannot compete against a large regional bell telephone service if they have the ability to shut out the competition. The local phone service belongs to the people and the phone company as a guardian of the infrasturcture should not be able to withhold service to their competitors. The consumer does not realize the unfair advantage given to the regional telephone companies. We simply will be out of business if Ameritech has it their way.

I reinterate any changes will have a very negative effect on our business and the consumer will suffer.

Sincerely,

Walter C. Dearwester  
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